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SOURCE Ta-hsueh Ping-lun, Vol I, No 9, 1948.UNITES UNITY AGAINST GREAT POWERSTHE ROAD FOR THE SMALL AND WEAK PEOPLES

Shen Hsiao-ts'en

If the definition of imperialism as capitalism engaged in the exploitation of small and weak peoples is correct, World War I may be regarded as a war of imperialism and World War II as an anti-imperialist war into which China, Great Britain, the USSR, and the US were forced in order to resist the fascist imperialism of Japan, Germany, and Italy. In resisting the Japanese invasion, China was thus the first to become involved in this anti-imperialist struggle. While this war of resistance was the most striking manifestation of the struggle, its logical basis had already been stated specifically in the first of Dr Sun Yat-sen's Three People's Principles, the principle of nationalism, and the effort to secure independence and freedom from unequal treaties was already under way. His objective was not limited to China alone, but embraced all the small and weak peoples of the world.

In World War II Great Britain and the US used the term democracy as a rallying cry, but it was the democracy of capitalism, and their motives were not pure. Nevertheless, it can be said that they were against imperialism; world imperialism is on the way out, and the colonial areas of Asia are definitely and irrevocably launched on a course tending toward liberation. But many difficult questions, divergent objectives, and conflicting policies have appeared due to the lack of a generally accepted guiding principle toward freedom, harmony and peace. Witness the Arab and Israeli problem in Palestine, the India and Pakistan problem in India and the Indonesian problem.

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Because of the opposition of US capitalism to USSR Communism, the civil war in China, the division between North and South Korea, and the strife in Indochina, distressing conflicts are still in progress. China has been involved in incessant strife since 1927, on the one hand because the CCP has stirred up class struggle in the rural districts and fractured the united-front struggle against imperialism, and on the other because the KMT has been mainly concerned with preserving the special privileges of the few and abandoned its historic mission.

During the early years of the Japanese invasion, domestic differences were subordinated for a time by a resurgence of Sun Yat-sen's revolutionary spirit, but this did not last long. Unfortunately, the responsible government leaders lacked proper understanding of the principle of nationalism, and totally lacked understanding of the principles of the people's rights and the people's livelihood. Consequently, when the great opportunity of a lifetime came to lay down a track in accordance with the Three People's Principles, they were unable to do so. At every turn, they subordinated their momentous commission to carry out the revolution to the protection of the selfish interests of a few men. Still less did they attempt to extend the application of those principles to other countries, leaving the smaller and weaker peoples of Asia to struggle against imperialism disunitedly and without any definite guidance.

For 40 years during which revolutionary movements in the smaller nations of southern Asia were brewing, China was regarded as the vanguard, but of late she has lagged behind. Today, with the US and the USSR in mutual opposition, the situation is daily becoming more confused. There is no use talking more about the ineptitude of the KMT. World affairs do not stand still, and in the end there must be a turning point.

The emancipation of the weak nations and the political and economic equality of all peoples is essential to peace in the 20th Century. The US, with her great productive power and her desire to exploit the backward peoples, is a great menace to world peace. The USSR with her Communism and her desire and plans for world revolution is the cause of great disturbances in many countries. The struggle between these two great powers imperils the independent existence of the small and weak nations. Class struggles inevitably destroy the unity and effectiveness of the people's efforts to build up their respective countries. Therefore, we urge that the small nations hold themselves apart from both the US and the USSR. To rely on US capitalism is to reduce oneself to the status of a comprador; to follow the USSR slavishly is not only to surrender one's independence and dignity, but even to become a satellite.

For the present, while we cannot keep pace industrially with the strong nations, the introduction of unconditional internationalism will have to remain an ideal. Under the present backward conditions of industrial development in China and other weak nations, it is of pressing importance that we continue to oppose imperialism, augment production, and strive to catch up with the advanced nations. To achieve successful opposition to imperialism, the first step is for the small and weak nations who have suffered the oppression of the imperialists to unite their strength and strive concretely for emancipation. Only thus can the present pernicious state of affairs be cleared up and the right to life and independence be secured. In this task China, with its Three People's Principles, has an untransferable responsibility.

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